Record and Chronicle

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THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

for Dispensing the Monthly Gossip to our Members with the Armed Forces

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Since Ray Lewis has made such good copy for the Editor in previous issuss, we are featuring Ray as our Special Columnist this month, allowing him to supply his OWN copy which follows:

Either on account of the war, or in spite of the war, (or name your own scapegoat), the volume of work in the sinecure X-ray Department continues its practically uninterrupted, and apparently limitless, growth. Whether the thing should be turned over to the endocrinologists for study of the pituitary; whether we should radiate the epiphuses or do an epiphysiodesis; whether to call in a vitamin expert; or whether to just cut down the food intake, we're at a complete loss to know. The cowbird fledgling has darn near pushed us all out of the nest.

The personnel of the department has changed little since the departure of our more recent colleagues. "Waddie" Schwartz has been recently replacing Ramsay Spillman as substitute for the aged nominal head of the department on his (rare and short*) (frequent and prolonged**) vacations; Ramsay being tied down by another hospital, an office, and three days a week at the army induction center. It certainly sounds like enough.

Since Mary Rose's promotion up one flight to the mezzanine and the head of the record room, "Bennie" Benedetto, the well-known and popular Dodger fan, has been the slave-driver of the department, with Dorothy Huddy, of elevator and photography fame, as able assistant whip-cracker. Miss McCullough is still the fastest hundred yard dasher up our corridor, and heads the pack of racing technicians. Miss Jankowski (Mrs. Dale in Private life) is a close second; and still manages in some mysterious way to dry the films almost before they are developed, and long before the desire to read them has stirred in the bosom of the (overworked*) (shirking**) roentgenologist. Miss Pettengill resigned some time ago to accept a fing position in a private office here in the city, where she is continuing her excellent work. Mrs. Hibbs has taken her place here at the hospital, is rapidly becoming proficient in the use of seven league boots, and is adding a charming southern touch with her accent.

And speaking of swank, since last fall we have had a receptionist, no less, from one to four, five afternoons a week. Miss Cragink, sister-in-law of the deponent, as volunteer worker has brought order out of chaos, and has collected and shepherded the patients lost and straying in the X-ray corridors, in a phenomenal manner. (With other members of the family working in the hospital, there does seem some slight ground for the whispered charge of nepotism).

All the members of the department send their most cordial greetings and best wishes to their widely scattered pals.

Raymond W. Lewis - M. D.

Footnote:

* Roentgenologist's version

** Director's version

Yesterday was the first really comfortable day that we have had in the last 18 days. The heat and the humidity in the city reached record figures for temperature, humidity and duration. One day alone, $20. in nickels was deposited in the Coca-cola machine and Fred Kickbush had difficulty keeping the people in line to wait their turn.

Now that the weather has cooled off a little, it may be more appropriate to mention the 1236 pairs of long flannel children's underdrawers which we have had in our storeroom for a good many years. As the styles of American children have changed considerably since the hospital was given this underwear, we are making a donation of it to the English Speaking Union of the United States. In acknowledging our donation, the English Speaking Union writes, "When we ship the garments to our headquarters in England, we will at the same time write and tell them about your contribution. We know what great comfort this underwear is going to mean to 1,236 children".

Dr. Morgan Hartshorn, one of the Board of Managers and Pediatric Consultant to the Hospital for Special Surgery and Seaside Hospital donated two beautiful pictures for the X-ray waiting room for Out-patients. These pictures were painted by Dr. Hartshorn, one in oil and one in water color.

On June 16th, Dr. Hartshorn, F. Wilson Keller, the Director, and George Shannon, the Superintendent of Maintenance, made a trip to Seaside Hospital to see what the Army was actually doing there. They were royally entertained at lunch by Mr. William E. P. Collins, Superintendent of the Staten Island Hospital who drove them to Seaside. We found that the changes at Seaside were pretty much as reported in a previous issue of the R. & C. They have certainly torn the insides out of the main service building and have started with their various alterations. It made us feel somewhat sad to see the place all torn up. The C. O. evidently sensed our feelings, as he invited us to return in the fall to see what they had actually accomplished in the alterations and told us that he thought we would be well pleased with the changes. The C. O. was very cordial to us and gave us a considerable amount of his time. Before going down there, we wondered how they were ever going to get 270 beds. We found that they are enclosing all the porches and that these will be used as wards. We also learned that Lewis Cottage will probably be used for an Officer's Club rather than the residence of the C. O. as previously reported. After leaving Seaside, Mr. Collins had made arrangements permitting us to drive through the grounds of the Halloran General Hospital.

Dr. David Horwich has received his orders to report to Camp Peary, U.S. Naval Training Station, Williamsburg, Va., on July 19th, with the rank of Lt. Comm.

When Dr. Horwich's name is added to the Honor Roll in the main Hospital, the Honor Roll will be complete with 60 names. It will soon be necessary to ask Mrs. Fischer to make an additional Honor Roll for us.

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Teague announce the arrival of Frank Teague, Jr. on June 17th, Indianapolis, Ind., weighing 8½ pounds and with a double chin.

Tommy Cannon has received a card from Pfc. Eddie Collins, former elevator operator, asking to be put on the mailing list for the R. & C. We are glad to have Eddie's address and will see that he received the Record & Chronicle regularly. His address is Headquarters Battery, 391st F. A., A.P.O. 253, Indiantown Gap. Pa.

Captain Bill Hinkle stopped in to pay us a visit on June 17th on his way to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., where he is stationed with the Boston City Hospital Unit until August 1st. After that, he will be sent to Lovell General Hospital, Ft. Devens, Mass.

Dr. Wilson has heard from Major Bob Patterson who writes from England that he is enjoying life in Oxford and that he has attended several meetings of the British Orthopaedic Association. He quotes some figures from a paper he heard on the results of fractures of the carpo-scaphoid in the British Army. 853 cases with a followup on 450. The results of plaster fixation in the acute fractures were excellent but the cases operated upon at any stage by any means were unsatisfactory. For example, out of 108 fractures treated by bone graft only 8 returned to full active duty. He has been having quite a few war casualties and comments on the much lower mortality among wounded in this war and a low rate of amputations compared with the experience in 1918. He has been very interested in the wounds of the knee joint. In the simple penetrating wounds he has employed aspiration and then solfonamide drug. In the more severe types of injury in which clothing or foreign body is present , he debrides down to the joint, washes the joint out, closes the synovial membrane and drains down to it and immobilizes the leg in plaster and employs the drug. In the acute cases that he treated there were no deaths, only one real infection and one gas gangrene which survived by amputation. It was very nice to hear such good news from Bob Patterson and we think he has been fortunate in his assignment and we wish him continued good luck.

A letter has been received from Fred Clausen thanking us for putting him on the mailing list for the Record and Chronicle. He writes, "It is most entertaining to hear from 'the old stamping grounds and about those who did the stamping'. I am completing my service at the Lahey Clinic on June 30th after which I am going home to Utah while awaiting developments of my date with Uncle Sam." He adds,"Best wishes to all", and gives us an address of 875 S. 14 E., Salt Lake City 5, Utah.

We now have two gentlemen who are helping as volunteers in the wards of the hospital, one, 2 evenings a week from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and one Sunday morning from 8:00 to 12:00.

Mrs. Glee H. Dervend, Director of Social Service, has received a letter from Miss Frances Engeman who recently resigned as one of our Social Workers to join the American Red Cross and who writes from somewhere in Africa. "I have been extremely fortunate so far. We have an exceptionally fine unit and our C. O. is the salt of the earth. The trip over was a surprise and a delight. Beautiful weather and congenial companions. The nurses have taken us right in and we are happy about it. Over here we have been very comfortable and extremely well fed. We are working fairly long hours, but not too hard and have been able to get in a good swim now and then. I have received several issues of the R. & C. which I read avidly. I hope eventually to run into some of our doctors. The Chronicle is most welcome". Miss Engeman, you might like to know that Lt. Frances Dunlop, and Lt. Verona Hardy of our Physical Therapy Department are also somewhere in Africa. Although we realize that Africa is a large place, you may come across them too.

The Hospital for Special Surgery does receive bouquets now and then. Miss Kathleen Mulhall, Charge Nurse in Ward 8, received a letter from a former patient. To quote "As the General Surgery took me in when I did not have a dime, now I am working the last 14 days and as the fund for hospitals are being collected, I am sending you $5. for your hospital, and it is there my life was saved and for that I am very grateful but without a R.N. nurse named Miss Kathleen Mulhall I don't think I would have survived. With all my good wishes to all the other nurses whom I won't forget, I will say so long until I earn more money to show I never forget a kindness".

Today the Asbestos Construction Company has started to patch the ceiling over the boilers, which ceiling was knocked full of holes some years ago in order to replace pipes. We hope that this will make Brother Hansson's office a little more comfortable. If not, he will have to blame it entirely on Jackie with her Spanish ways.

Our plug for "Your Arthritis and What You Can Do About It", by Alfred M. Phelps, M.D. has brought a number of inquiries about his book and where it can be purchased. The publishers are William Morrow & Co., Inc., 386 Fourth Ave., New York City. Dr. Phelps tells us that the book can also be purchased in any of the larger bookstores.

With deep regret we report the death of Dr. Yankiver's Mother in the Gibney Pavilion on June 29th. The Record and Chronicle extends its sympathy to Dr. Yankiver and his family.

We had to file new requests with the P. & A. for deferment of our Resident Staff. The P. & A. kindly deferred all the Residents until the termination of their appointments. However, it could not have been a difficult decision for them to make for most of our Residents are in 4F. Dr. Callin's and Dr. Rodi's Residencies officially terminated as of today, but they are going to stay on the Staff until they are officially called for military service, both having made applications for commissions. When they leave, this will leave us with five Orthopaedic Residents and one Surgical Resident, as Dr. John Dorsey also expects to enter the Service.

Dr. Isabel Bittinger Ball is now back on duty and reports that her daughter, Patricia, born on May 15th is doing well.

Mary Rose has received a letter from Alice Leinbach stating that she and Mike are now down in Clearwater Beach, Florida, that Mike was transferred from Carlisle Barracks to Drew Field, Detached Medical Service, Tampa, Florida. She writes that he is in charge of a Ward and assigned to the orthopaedic bugaboo-BACKS. All in all though, he is well satisfied with Army life.

Dr. Wilson has received a letter from Lowell Thomas who writes as follows:

"I should like to let you and the busy staff of the R & C Chronicle know what a welcome and thorough cover to cover reading your monthly news letter gets. The fellows away from home, I believe are inclined to think themselves as being pretty far removed from their familiar haunts until the Chronicle comes along and they read of the doings of Stanek, Burgess, Fritz, Tommy, Dr. Santo, Carr, Brad Coley Duncan, the Pleasant Pheasant, Starr and so many others.

That cartoon of Mrs. Fischer's in the issue just received with its touching drama about to be enacted in the library, stirs many memories of our friend and teacher, Dr. Beekman.

The world shrinks immediately on reading and seeing such things as these about this time each month and one dwells for a time on bitterly contested post prandial ping-pong matches, a swim at (Farmer) Richmond Stephens' Connecticut place or at the beach with Rizzo, the stimulus of morning conferences, Christmas and the jolly crowd enjoying the Wilson home and hospitality. Time, distance and circumstance are thus easily overcome.

My outfit left Palestine several weeks ago, crossed the Desert from Damascus to Bagdad in super delux air conditioned buses, (Huge , specially built, duraluminum, Trailer-Type desert cruisers they really were, with all the modern conveniences, and I do mean all), and reached our present location in one more jump by train and river boats. We are very busy in our new hospital and all goes well. "

On Monday, June 28th, the Director was invited down to City Hall along with the representatives from other hospitals which have Casualty Stations and Emergency Medical Field Units, and received from His Honor, the Mayor, a Certificate of Merit from the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, U.S. Citizens Service Corps. The Certificate reads as follows:

This Certifies that

Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled

has patriotically and generously contributed to the protection of the City of New York by freely providing office space for Civilian Defense workers and activities; has thus merited this award of recognition from the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office; and is hereby enrolled on the Roll of Honor of Civilian Defense.

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